

They did, and we're proud to welcome you here to the White House. Thanks for coming.

Brown University women's crew is with us today. Brown University crew has a lot to celebrate in recent years. After all, they have won the NCAA title five out of the last nine seasons. These women know how to row. [Laughter] Brown is the winningest women's crew program in the history of the NAAs. We wish their coaches all the very best as they deal with a personal problem. I'm sorry they're not here, but these women—if anybody can lift their spirits—because they performed brilliantly. I also appreciate the fact that we've got Academic All-Americans and National Scholar-Athletes on this team as well. Congratulations on achieving excellence on all fronts, and welcome to the White House.

Coach Robinson and others coach the mighty Golden Gophers of Minnesota in the University of Minnesota men's wrestling team—grapplers. This spring, you earned the third national title in team history. And I appreciate the fact that you train hard, work hard, and as we say in Texas, "out-wrestle 'em." [Laughter] Congratulations, and welcome to the White House.

Here's the final group of champs. From the great State of Alaska, the men and women's rifle team from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. It is safe to say, this team traveled the furthest to be here. You earned the trip. This is, by the way, the eighth time in 9 years that the Nanooks have been the NCAA champions in rifle. Interestingly enough, guess who they beat? West Point. Any time you outshoot West Point, you're really good at what you do. [Laughter] And so we welcome you to the White House, and thanks for coming.

As I explained to some of the teams, one of the reasons why I love to welcome people here is to remind you that you can be a champ on the field, and you can be a champ off the field, that because you're a champ on the field, you have a chance to inspire somebody to make right choices in life. You have the opportunity to set a good example. You don't know how many youngsters are looking at you, but there's a lot. People are wondering how champs behave. So by setting

high standards and working hard to achieve them, you're influencing other people.

I also appreciate the fact that you're involved with raising money for cancer awareness or collecting toys and clothing for those in need. Some of the teams have supported the Special Olympics. A lot of the folks on these teams have volunteered in the communities in which they live. And I thank you for that. You're proving what I know is true, that you have to be a dedicated soul to get here in the White House—to get here to the White House when it comes to athletics, but it is that same dedication that makes you achieve excellence in sports that helps you be an excellent person in life.

And so we welcome you here. We thank you for coming. May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 3:26 p.m. on the South Lawn at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to Greg Kraft, track and field program head coach, Arizona State University; Dan Brooks, women's golf team head coach, Duke University; Dave Pietramala, men's lacrosse team head coach, Johns Hopkins University; and J Robinson, men's wrestling team head coach, University of Minnesota.

Proclamation 8179—Gold Star Mother's Day, 2007

September 21, 2007

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

The gift of liberty is secured by heroes who have answered the call to serve when America needed them most. On Gold Star Mother's Day, we honor the mothers of the service men and women who have given their lives in the defense of our great Nation.

America's Gold Star Mothers are remarkable patriots who serve their communities by demonstrating good citizenship, providing support and services to our troops and veterans, and helping comfort the families whose loved ones have made the ultimate sacrifice. Their sense of duty and deep devotion to our country inspire our Nation, and we thank them for their compassion, determination, and strength. Though they carry a great burden of grief, these courageous

mothers help ensure that the legacy of our fallen heroes will be forever remembered. On this day, we offer our deep gratitude and respect to our Nation's Gold Star Mothers; we honor the sons and daughters who died while wearing the uniform of the United States; and we pray for God's blessings on them, their mothers, and their families.

The Congress, by Senate Joint Resolution 115 of June 23, 1936 (49 Stat. 1895 as amended), has designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day" and has authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in its observance.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim Sunday, September 30, 2007, as Gold Star Mother's Day. I call upon all Government officials to display the flag of the United States over Government buildings on this solemn day. I also encourage the American people to display the flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our Nation's sympathy and respect for our Gold Star Mothers.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-first day of September, in the year of our Lord two thousand seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-second.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., September 25, 2007]

NOTE: This proclamation will be published in the *Federal Register* on September 26.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 15

In the morning, at Camp David, MD, the President had an intelligence briefing.

September 16

In the afternoon, the President and Mrs. Bush returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Family Theater, they hosted a screening of "The Kite Runner."

September 17

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Oval Office, the President participated in a photo opportunity with 2007 Scripps National Spelling Bee champion Evan M. O'Dorney.

The President announced his designation of the following individuals as members of a Presidential delegation to attend the funeral of Prime Minister John Compton of Saint Lucia on September 18 in Castries, Saint Lucia: Alphonso R. Jackson (head of delegation); and Mary Martin Ourisman.

The President announced his intention to nominate Anita K. Blair to be Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs).

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael W. Hager to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Human Resources and Management).

The President announced his intention to nominate Keith Hall to be Commissioner of Labor Statistics at the Department of Labor.

The President announced his intention to nominate Michael B. Mukasey to be Attorney General.

The President announced his intention to designate David H. McCormick as a member of the Board of Directors of the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

The President announced that he has designated Peter D. Keisler as Acting Attorney General.

September 18

In the morning, the President had an intelligence briefing.

In the afternoon, in the Map Room, the President participated in an interview with Bret Baier of FOX News.

September 19

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with Prime Minister